

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending in this application, Claim 2 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 having been amended by the present Amendment. Support for amended Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 can be found, for example, in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to due to informalities; Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 4-6, and 13/6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Gui et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0031262; hereinafter “Gui”); Claims 1 and 3/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Wassermayr (“An Integrated Approach for the Design of Diesel Engine Exhaust Systems to Meet Euro 4 and Beyond Emissions Legislations”; hereinafter “Wassermayr”); and Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gui, or, in the alternative, over Wassermayr in view of Official Notice. Claims 2, 3/2, 7, 13/7, and 9-12 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants’ acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification to include the appropriate section headings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite, Applicants have amended the claims to correct the noted informalities stated in the outstanding Office Action.

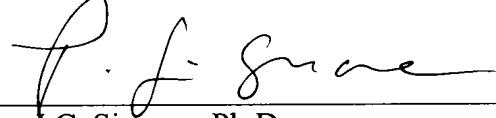
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In light of the indication of allowable subject matter, and in order to obtain early issuance of a patent from the present application, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 2, and allowable Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to be in independent form. Claim 2 has been cancelled and Claim 3 has been amended to maintain dependency. Accordingly, only claims including allowable subject matter remain pending, and no further issues are believed to be outstanding.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, the pending claims as presented herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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